

**SACRAMENTO RIVER CONSERVATION AREA  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MINUTES**

September 28, 2000  
6:30 p.m.

Willows City Hall Complex  
Willows, CA

Chair Denny Bungarz called the meeting of the Sacramento River Conservation Area to order at 6:35 p.m. at the above listed location.

It was determined that there was a quorum of twelve (12) voting members present.

<u>County</u>	<u>Public Interest</u>	<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Butte	Jane Dolan	Shirley Lewis	
Colusa	Doug White-alt <i>David Womble</i>	Ben Carter	
Glenn	Denny Bungarz	Jason Larrabee	
Shasta	Glenn Hawes	<i>Dan Gover</i>	
Sutter	Dick Akin	Russell Young	
Tehama	Bill Borrer	<i>Brendon Flynn</i>	
Yolo	Lynnel Pollock	Marc Faye	
Resources Agency			<i>Mel Dodgin</i>
Cal DWR			<i>Bill Bennett</i>
Cal DFG			Diana Jacobs
State Reclamation Board			Pete Rabbon
US COE			Mark Charlton
US Bureau of Reclamation			<i>Laura Allen</i>
USF&WS			Jim McKevitt

*Names listed in italics represent absence*

Also present, Coordinator Burt Bundy plus an estimated audience of 40 interested persons.

Resources Agency	Tim Ramirez
Cal DWR	Stacy Cepello

1. CLOSED SESSION: Chair Bungarz announced there will be no closed session.
2. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chair Denny Bungarz announced that the current meeting site seems to be a central site and will host future meetings.

Reported DWR Attorney Rita Singer had been hospitalized with a stroke, home now. A card was circulated for signing. Welcomes letters and email.

The Coordinator announced that the Assistant position has been filled and introduced Patricia Brown who will start the position October 16, 2000. She brings a lot of experience and expertise to the position.

Chairman Bungarz reported that the Manager Selection Committee has received 19 applications for the position. Jason Larrabee, Bill Borrer, Brendon Flynn and Chair Bungarz have evaluated the applicants. They factored and rated each applicant and will bring the top 5 candidates to interview before the next board meeting. The successful candidate will be brought to the next Board meeting in closed session. The Chair asked if the Board would be

comfortable with the outlined process. With consensus they agreed. In the event that Jason Larrabee is unable to attend Marc Faye would take his place.

3. MINUTES: Diana Jacobs noted change on August 24, 2000 minutes: Item #6 ....predecessor *did* get included into the CVPIA.

Dick Akin moved, seconded by Ben Carter to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the board.

4. COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Burt Bundy displayed a map showing the four reaches of the Sacramento River and discussed the sub-reach and site-specific planning process as outlined in the Handbook. A key to the success of the process is assuring that all landowners, agencies, and stakeholders are aware of, and involved in, the proposed activity early in the planning process. By working through the TAC committee, technical solutions, as well as public awareness will be addressed.

Members of the Comp Study team visited the Hamilton City and Woodson Bridge area. At Hamilton City they looked at the "J" levee and discussed the problems and opportunities of the area. Representatives from Glenn, Butte, and Tehama Counties, as well as several other entities answered questions from the Team. At Woodson Bridge the group viewed the erosion sites as well as the rip-rap on state land. It was noted that letters of support for both areas to be included in the "Initial Projects" phase of the Comprehensive Study have been sent to the COE and Reclamation Board as well as appropriate elected officials.

The Bloody Island sub-reach planning effort will begin in the next few months. The CALFED funded study of the habitat values along the river from Cow Creek down to the Bend Bridge will be done through DWR and BLM. The Coordinator will facilitate the public input process and try to inform all landowners of the study and provide for local input. Glenn Hawes indicated that he would like to see the study go north to the Deschutes Bridge and encouraged everyone to come to the first meeting.

5. TAC Report: Dan Keppen reported on the Sept. 21 TAC meeting, and noted that a written report was in the Board packets. The committee is working two issues referred to them by the Board: 1) Delineation of the Inner-River Zone (IRZ) on Reaches 1, 3, & 4, and, 2) Define or list hard-points within the Conservation Area. IRZ delineation in Reach #4 options: 1) Reaffirm what the handbook states, that because of the extensive levee system there is no realistic opportunities for habitat improvement and therefore the Inner River Zone does not apply; 2) Develop an inner-river guideline specific to the region between the levees, i.e. inner levee zone; 3) Delete this reach if it does not have opportunities for habitat. Several members of the TAC felt that this option would possibly require some form of legislation. Topic of concern: What does the Inner-river zone mean to the landowner? Dan suggested that public meetings in each reach be held for input on this topic. The coordinator will start working on a list of landowners in each reach to contact about the Inner-River Zone. Jason Larrabee moved, seconded by Jane Dolan to send a letter to DWR to formalize the study on the *Chico Landing-Colusa report*. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the board.

Hard Point discussion: Could not get meaningful discussion going yet. Only Glenn and Butte counties have submitted their reports to date. If counties have names for the hard point sub-committee, please submit them to the coordinator.

Dan stated questions raised about NEPA-CEQA issues and requirements. Perhaps a paper describing the process would be appropriate.

Dan Keppen stated that he will be able to remain active as TAC lead.

6. POSSIBLE ORD BEND ACQUISITION: Chairman Bungarz introduced Kevin Foerster, F&WS, Manager of the Sacramento Refuge Complex and Sam Lawson of The Nature Conservancy. The Chairman noted that this item had been on the agenda for two meetings and that for various reasons, had been delayed. Kevin gave a brief outline/history of the refuge in general. They then described the acquisition of an 80 acre parcel on the west side of the Sacramento River. The landowner had approached F&WS to buy the full parcel. After review of the parcel, and observing that about half of it was good agricultural land and the other already in habitat, the F&WS contacted TNC to see if a split could be effected. In keeping with the principles of SB1086, adjoining landowners and Glenn County were contacted, and through TNC and with Glenn County Board support, the sale was consummated with about 40 acres remaining in habitat with F&WS ownership, and 40 acres *to be sold by Nature Conservancy* to an adjoining landowner for continued agricultural use. Kevin and Sam entertained many questions from the Board and audience regarding the purchase and subsequent dispersal of the property in question and their acquisition procedures and operation in general.
7. PILT PRESENTATION: Jim McKevitt introduced Howard Stark, F&WS, Chief of the Sacramento Realty Office in Sacramento. He explained the process of the Refuge Revenue Sharing Act, explaining income and impact to counties and how the continued funding will apply to each county. He noted that the PILT does not apply to the F&WS. The Federal (Refuge Revenue Sharing Act) and State (PILT) programs differ, however, they all benefit counties, but in different ways. The *Refuge Revenue Sharing Act applies to fee acquisitions only. It does not apply to conservation easements where title does not change hands.* Payments are based on *income from refuge receipts and Congressional appropriations are made in arrears with no time adjustment. Income must be computed before payment made. Of particular note, however, is that assessed value is updated every five years, resulting in payments to counties that are often more than they would have received if the property had not been acquired by the FW&S.* The Board asked Mr. Stark many questions regarding payment and process of the Federal Revenue Sharing Act as pertaining to specific area or situations. Again, the audience also asked Mr. Stark several questions regarding the F&WS program *It was noted by Doug White that in Colusa the county auditor/controller has documentation indicating that the Federal Wildlife in lieu of taxes underpaid in excess of \$800,000.00.* He was invited to remain for further questions after the meeting due to interest.  
Diana Jacobs summarized the State PILT program administered by the Dept of Fish & Game through the Wildlife Conservation Board. She explained that acquired properties must have specific designations by the DF&G for counties to *receive the PILT. Wildlife management areas generally will have payments while ecological reserves will not.\*See addendum to #7.*  
Allen Fulton UC Cooperative Extension Service (Shasta, Tehama, Glenn & Colusa), reported that he is looking at land use trends in Colusa County. Mr. Fulton stated he would be willing to work with our Board and TAC committee in compiling data and addressing considerations and concerns that need to be outlined first.
8. EX-OFFICIO AGENCY UPDATES: Jim McKevitt briefed the Board on how the F&WS is working with CALFED in developing a project list for 2001 through the PSP process. The list of projects are now on the internet at [www.CALFED.ca.gov](http://www.CALFED.ca.gov).

Mark Charlton, COE, stated that emergency work from the 1997 flooding are having difficulty with placing rock on some levees due to environmental restrictions and the alternatives are very expensive. Dick Akin raised a question about the issue regarding using alternatives to rock. If the alternative to rock fails, who do we sue? The Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basin Comprehensive Study *will be due* to start dealing with the problems. Workshops will be held 11/2/00 at the CARD in Chico. Most of the Board are on the mailing list and Mark encouraged all to get involved with the Study and attend the workshops.

Pete Rabbon said the Reclamation Board is in partnership with the COE on the Comp Study and will continue efforts to complete the emergency action work from the past and provide services for future public safety needs. The Reclamation Board has been successful in receiving some funding for enforcement work. He will continue to keep the Board informed on flood control issues.

Tim Ramirez updated the Board on the current CALFED status. He indicated that the Governor is committed to the Program. Jason Larrabee requested that the Resources Agency or DFG appoint someone to work on the Sacramento River Habitat on the sub reach level. Diana Jacobs noted that a *DFG staff person* is being solicited to *coordinate* work in this area as we speak.

9. OTHER ISSUES: Chair Bungarz read a letter from Family Water Alliance regarding their interest in the Board discussing the issue of a county's ability to veto projects. At Dick Akin's request, the issue will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Chair noted that agenda items need to be forwarded to he or the coordinator to be placed on the action agenda about 2 weeks prior to the meeting.

Next meeting: TAC - Thursday, October 19, 2000

Board meeting Thursday, November 2, 2000, Willows

Board meeting Thursday, December 14, 2000, Willows

Winter hours TBD

Meeting adjourned: 9:30

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Bundy,  
Recording Secretary